

Facts about the Legislative Commission on Aging

February 10, 2013



Who we are: Created twenty years ago, the Commission on Aging (CGA §17b-420) is a non-partisan research and public policy office of the CT General Assembly located at the State Capitol.

Who we are not: We are not an executive branch agency administering or providing direct services. Nor do we report to the Governor - this allows the Legislative CoA to remain completely objective and non-partisan. This remains true of all of the distinct constituent legislative Commissions.

What we do (a sample):

- **Provide administrative staff support to various legislatively mandated Task Forces and Initiatives on behalf of the CT General Assembly.**
- **Lead public/private-sector efforts** to promote public policy reflecting best practices and national trends on multi-faceted aging issues.
- **Analyze demographic, economic, quality of life and service delivery trends** in aging, delivering objective research and generating reports to guide sound public policy;
- **Prepare Connecticut for the changing demographics** that will impact nearly every facet of society;
- **Leads efforts to streamline Medicaid long-term care services and supports**, which represent 13% of the state budget;
- **Present solutions to the CT General Assembly:** including proposing recommendations and leading initiatives related to long-term services and supports that saves the state hundreds of millions of dollars annually;
- **Develop and comment on legislative proposals:** objectively and independently provides guidance and testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly;
- **Review and comment on state departmental policies, procedures, structures and outcomes** that affect older adults and persons with disabilities, providing accountability and objectivity;
- **Establish and maintain partnerships with diverse stakeholders**, including the business community, non-profits and governmental entities;
- **Helps legislators problem solve with various constituent concerns.**
- **Reach out statewide to thousands of Connecticut residents**, by hosting public informational forums, hosting a regular radio show on WTIC, utilizing social media, attending legislators' senior fairs, etc.

CoA Team

Appointed volunteer members:

William L. Eddy
Jeanne Franklin
Sharon Gesek
Raymond A. Guenter
Nancy Heaton
Nancy Sullivan Hodkoski
Judith M. Jencks
Gerard J. Kerins, MD
Mary Ellen Klinck
Christianne Kovel
Richard C. Memmott, Sr.
John Nelson
Sherry Ostrout
James L. Pellegrino
Ed Roman
Dianne Stone
Susan Tomanio
Penelope L. Young

Staff

Julia Evans Starr
Robert Norton
Deborah Migneault

For more information about the Commission on Aging go to our website at cga.ct.gov/coa



Follow us:

Call us: 860-240-5200 or email us: coa@cga.ct.gov

Leadership on Major Initiatives and Policies (highlights):

- CoA has served as the legislative staff for the **Grandparents' Visitation Rights Task Force** (SA 11-12). The GVR Task Force was charged with studying the legal and social issues related to grandparents' access to visitation and producing a report with recommendations that are consistent with the state constitution. As a result of the task force's work PA 12-137 was signed into law.
- CoA has served as the legislative staff for the **Aging in Place Task Force** (SA 12-6). The AIP Task force was charged with studying how the state can encourage aging in place. The [report](#) was submitted the General Assembly's Aging Committee in December 2012. Legislation is being introduced this month.
- CoA is the elected co-chair of the **Money Follows the Person Steering Committee**, a public-private partnership that advises on the implementation of this multimillion dollar federal-state program as well as related initiatives.
- CoA serves a chair of the **Money Follows the Person Workforce Development Subcommittee**. The subcommittee is working to build a robust long-term services and supports workforce that is sustainable, respected and skilled. See the [report here](#).
- CoA co-chairs, leads, and manages the legislatively-mandated **Long-Term Care Advisory Council**, a diverse group of advocates, providers, and consumers (older adults and persons with disabilities) providing a collective voice and direction to long-term care issues in the state. Collaborates on the development of the state LTSS Plan. See the most recent [LTSS plan here](#).
- CoA serves as a member of the highly active **Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight**. This committee offers comment and oversight on many initiatives resulting from Affordable Care Act such as: the Medicare-Medicaid Enrollee Demonstration.
- CoA created, chairs and manages the **CT Elder Action Network**, a dynamic group of leaders in the field of aging in Connecticut;
- CoA partners with Wider Opportunities for Women and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women in the **Elder Economic Security Initiative**. Information about this initiative can be found [here](#).

Did you know?

CT is the 7th oldest state in the nation and our population of 65+ is projected to grow by 64% from 2006 - 2030!

From a budget perspective:

- CoA fills a leadership role within the legislative branch of government.
- CoA has 21 unpaid members – from communities across the state and with diverse disciplines – who volunteer their time and expertise to guide, inform, and add dimension to its work.
- The extremely modest budget (.001% of the state budget) of \$253,506 in fy 2013 its state Capitol-based three-person staff delivers a sound and wise investment in Connecticut's future.
- The CoA's performance, as illustrated in its Results-Based Accountability reports, affirms it is a low-cost, highly efficient and effective agency. CoA's [RBA Report can be found here](#).
- CoA's oversight directly relates to the one of the largest components of the state budget – Medicaid (representing 13% of the overall state budget).

For more information about the Commission on Aging go to our website at cga.ct.gov/coa



Follow us:

Call us: 860-240-5200 or email us: coa@cga.ct.gov